

TORRANCE

All America City AWARD WINNER



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## 'Surprise' Annexation Hit by Home Owners

### Dope Battle Pressed

#### Leave Us Advises Leader

Torrance will face "quite a fight" in its try to annex portions of Lawndale.

"To my knowledge there has been no interest to annexing to anybody. We just want to be left alone," declared Don Fry, president of the El Camino Civic Association.

Torrance officials rushed a boundary description of the area it wants to annex to the County Boundary Commission Thursday morning, following a precipitous action by the Planning Commission and City Council Wednesday.

#### Ask Merger

The petition asking Torrance to start with merger proceedings was signed by 11 persons. The first name on the list is that of W. E. Draie of 16119 Atkinson Ave., brother of Councilman Nickolas O. Draie.

The area eyed for annexation by Torrance is bounded by Compton Blvd. on the north, Prairie Ave. on the west, Van Ness Ave. on the east and Redondo Beach Blvd. on the south.

"Their sense of public relations must be very low," commented Fry. "If Torrance has something to offer, it should explain first. We'll be faced with the terrific expense in time and money fighting the effort."

#### Not Joiners

He said that the area under consideration for annexation has good streets, lights, police and fire protection in the county and does not care to join any city.

Fry said that the merger move "came by complete surprise. I don't have the foggiest notion of what's behind it."

Torrance officials speeded up the boundary description through the Planning Commission and the City Council in one night in the apparent intent of "freezing out" competitive moves by Hawthorne, Redondo Beach or Gardena.

One resident of the area who asked that his name be withheld, said that a number of Hawthorne city employees reside in the area and will oppose any annexation to Torrance.

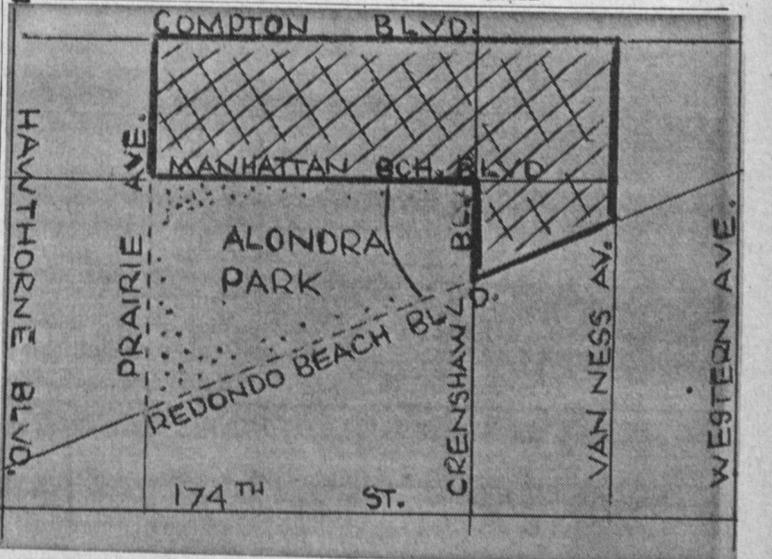
#### Little Theater Group Launched

Organizational meeting of a Little Theater group, sponsored by the North Torrance Civic Improvement Association, will be held March 27 at 8 p.m. in Mc-Master's Hall.

Persons interested in acting, directing, set and costume designing and writing, are invited to attend.

#### Bids Received for New Signals

Apparent low bid for the installation of traffic signals and highway safety lighting at two intersections in the Victoria Park area has been submitted by the Weststates Electrical Construction Company, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn reported this week.



ANNEXATION AREA — Shaded area is the portion of Alondra Park and Lawndale eyed for annexation to Torrance. It is roughly bounded on north by Compton Blvd., west by Prairie Ave., east by Van Ness Ave. and south by Redondo Beach Blvd.

#### Judge Hits Probe of Shooting

John Henry Thwaits, 45, of 2080 Middlebrook road, was promised a change of venue for his trial on murder charges of a San Diego tavern owner.

The Torrance man is one of five defendants charged with the slaying of Tony Mirabile, reputed Mafia chieftain in the San Diego area.

Thwaits' attorney, Jack Levitt told the court that he objects to statements made on a television program during the investigation of the case and publication of a transcript of grand jury testimony.

Thwaits is accused of contacting the triggerman in the shooting.

Superior Judge John A. Hewlcker criticized police and the district attorney's office for statements made about the police investigation prior to trial and said that the publicity might have made it impossible for the defendants to have a fair trial in San Diego County.

Beside Thwaits, one woman and three men are charged with complicity in the murder.

#### ELECT OFFICERS

New officers of the Torrance Elks Lodge will be elected at the March 18 meeting.



CITIZEN OF YEAR—Glenn Koger inspects the Laughton-Whyte trophy presented to him Wednesday when he was acclaimed Torrance's Citizen of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce banquet. From left, Mrs. William I. Laughton, co-sponsor of the award, Koger, Mrs. Koger and Mrs. Grover Whyte, co-sponsor. —Press Photo

#### General Cites Need for High Caliber Air Force

While the Air Force does not look for supermen for its airman of the future, it definitely wants a professional corps of capable men.

That's what Maj. Gen. Elvin S. Ligon Jr. told an audience at the Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet in the Civic Auditorium.

The program was highlighted by the presentation of the Laughton-Whyte trophy to Glen Koger, Rome Cable Co. vice president, who was chosen as Torrance's Citizen of the Year for 1958.

Koger was honored for his leadership and participation in numerous civic drives. The presentation was made by Dr. Howard A. Wood, who received the honor last year.

Ligon said that while Air Force manpower will be reduced, the individuals must meet higher standards than ever before with emphasis placed on skilled technicians.

The general predicted that for a long time to come, manned aircraft will continue in a leading role in defense. Although not minimizing the importance of missiles, he claimed that jet aircraft will share the burden of the United States defense force.

#### Torrance Scouts Nominated for Good Turn Recognition

Members of Troop 728 of Torrance who did 26 Good Turn projects last year, have been nominated for the George Putnam Youth Award.

The award is presented to the youth group doing the most for its community through service projects.

This isn't the first time Troop 728 has been so honored. They've received both runner-up scrolls and honorable mention in the past.

Herman Bookman of 18702 Cerise, Torrance, is Scoutmaster of Troop 728.

Troop members participating in the 26 community Good Turns were: Eugene Anderson, 1611 Fern; Terry Blackwell, 1317 Greenwood; John Carter, 1744 Fern; Dennis Champion, 1304 Hickory; Larry Champion, 1304 Hickory; James J. Henry, 2707 Sonoma; Gordon Hinshaw, 2467 W. Carson; David Moore, 1741 Elm; Thomas Patrick, 1229 Greenwood;

Robert W. Raines, 1203 Kornblum; Brad Stillwell, 1505 Elm; David R. Strayer, 1115 FaySmith; Kim Wilson, 1004 FaySmith; Dennis Albright, 2512 Sierra; William R. Blair, 2521 Sonoma; David Cooper, 1104 FaySmith; Donald Christensen, 1304 Hickory; Larry Hendrickson, 1821 Crenshaw; Robert Murphy, 2673 Carson;

Charles Myers, 827 Hickory; Kenneth Neal, 646 Sartori; Larry Reintzma, 916 FaySmith; Larry Olson, 1632 Elm; Tommy Rodgers, 1307 Greenwood; Kenneth Smith, 1420 Elm; all of Torrance, and John Wallace, 1712 Spreckels, of Redondo Beach.

The Troop's service projects, undertaken solely as Good Turns for their community, include collecting two tons of used clothing for the Good Turn Day clothing drive held annually by the Los Angeles Area Council in December; collecting 2,300 books for the Merchant Marine Library in San Pedro; and distributing posters for the Community Chest, of which the Los Angeles Area Council, Boy Scouts of America is a part.

They also received a citation from the Red Cross for "out-standing assistance" at the mobile blood bank, where they washed dishes, did clerical work, and helped set up and take down equipment.

After city elections they took over the unwanted task of removing political posters and billboards, at the request of the City Manager's office.

In the cause of civil defense, they operate a mobile trailer which is available and on call in an emergency, and includes both cooking and rescue units.

#### Elk Anti-Dope Delegation to Lobby

A Torrance delegation will join those of neighboring cities to press demands that the State Legislature adopt a tough dope peddler law Monday.

Originated by the Elks Lodges of Torrance, Gardena and Redondo Beach, the fraternal organizations will present petitions with 1,500,000 signatures to the Legislature to approve a bill to make a 30-year prison term for convicted "pushers" mandatory.

#### Bill Introduced

The bill has already been introduced by Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel.

Joseph E. Yates, past exalted ruler and chairman of the petition drive in Torrance, said that petitions containing 38,000 signatures, were obtained here.

He and Roger Holmes, exalted ruler, will be joined on the trip to Sacramento Monday by Councilmen J. A. Beasley, Victor Benstead and Willys Blount as well as Assistant Police Chief M. H. Porter.

#### Leave Monday

Delegates from Gardena, Redondo Beach, and San Dimas. (Continued on Page 2)



LAST-MINUTE CHECK—Joseph E. Yates, chairman, and Roger Holmes, right, exalted ruler of Torrance Elks, make last-minute check of petitions for more rigid punishment for dope peddlers as they prepare to present petitions to State Legislature. —Press Photo

#### Principals Blamed in Union Signup Drive

Charge that some school principals are "intimidating" classified employees from joining a labor organization, was hurled this week by a union official.

C. Charles Hogan, representative of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, charged that the principals "are either unaware of, or not conforming with the Board of Education policy."

Hogan, who said that Local 1101 has been formed among non-teaching employees in the Torrance Unified School District, said that a 12-point program will be presented shortly to the district administration.

#### Sudden Revival

He also claims that the Torrance School Employees Association, comprised of classified employees, "which has been dormant and ineffective to this date, is suddenly being revived."

The union spokesman said that he has affidavits from two employees who allegedly have been "intimidated" by principals from joining the union.

Last Tuesday night the Board of Education reaffirmed its policy of allowing employees freedom of choice in joining or not joining employee organizations.

#### Payroll Deductions

The board also indicated it will consider payroll deduction for union dues if the union presents a charter or constitution and furnishes a list of local officers and employees.

Hogan said that a seven-point program adopted by the Employees Association is part of the 12-point program announced by the union.

"We're able to see, through the smoke screen. It is probably stimulated by someone near the top," he declared.

The union's program calls for



MODERN METHODS—A belt conveyor system, one of the up-to-date features in the Torrance court house to be dedicated Monday, is inspected by Deputy Clerk Betty Wiseman. The belt conveys citations from the courtroom, where the fines are fixed, directly to the clerk's office, where they are paid to speed up proceedings. —Press Photo

#### Officials to Dedicate New Torrance Court Building

Dedication ceremonies for the new Municipal Courthouse in Torrance will be held Monday, according to County Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Participating in the inauguration of the new facility will be mayors and councilmen of the eight cities served by the South Bay District, as well as various county officials, including Sheriff Peter J. Pitches, District Attorney William B. McKesson, and Marshal Joe Bookman.

The \$300,000 building contains, in addition to one courtroom, branch offices of the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, Marshal and Clerk of Court.

Featured on the program will be Supervisor Burton Chace, who will give the principal dedication message. Judge Donald Armstrong, presiding Judge of the South Bay Judicial District, will also speak. Boris S. Wooley, president of the South Bay Bar Association, will act as master of ceremonies.

The new court, a branch of the South Bay Municipal Court in Redondo Beach, and located in the new Torrance Civic Center, will handle all police and small claims cases originating in Torrance and California Highway Patrol Citations from the adjacent unincorporated areas.

Detention and first aid facilities are provided in the new building which replaces the Branch Court Office which has been located in the Torrance City Hall for the past year. The air-conditioned structure has a brick exterior walls and contains 10,000 square feet of floor space.

Music for the occasion, which will start at 10:30 a.m., will be provided by the Torrance Area Youth Band. The Rev. Joseph K. McArdle of Nativity Church will deliver the Benediction.

#### Gas Station Owner Is Gladly Out of Business

Robert E. Mundell is out of business today, but he's quite happy about it.

His classified ad in the Torrance Press was so successful that he was able to sell his service station on Western Ave. at the price he asked. As a matter of fact, Mundell, of 1520 Marine Ave., Wilmington, received 15 calls from the want ad he ran for a week.

If you have something to buy, sell or rent, call a courteous Torrance Press advertiser at FA 8-2345, who will be glad to help you with your advertising problems.

#### Dump Site Approved

A zone exception for a cut and cover rubbish dump north and east of Main and Dominguez Sts. was granted to the Del Amo Estates Co. by the County Regional Planning Commission this week.

The board also granted a permit to the Arrowhead and Puritas Waters, Inc. for an addition to a water distribution plant at 502 E. 213th St.

#### MRS. PARISH DIES

Mrs. Pearl Parish, 66, of 2248 W. 239th St., died in Harbor General Hospital Wednesday, apparently the victim of a heart attack, according to a police report.